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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/519,151

03/06/2000

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08/01/2006

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EXAMINER

DONAGHUE, LARRY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2154

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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1. Claims 1-13 and 15-29 are presented for examination.
2. The rejection is maintained and set forth below.
3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 5-6, 9-10, 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepe et al. (5,742,905).

Note for claims 1-8 is interpreted to be software.

Pepe et al. taught the invention substantially (claim 1) as claimed, a server (40) connected to a network; and a Mail Alert code set resident and operable on the server, wherein the agent is adapted to compare characteristics of e-mail messages received for the subscriber to specific message characteristics provided by the subscriber and pre-stored on the server (col. 4, line 56- col. 5, line 9; col. 7, line 3-15), to alert the subscriber when a characteristic match is found, (col. 31, lines 30-65) and to execute instructions received from the subscriber in response to the alert for forwarding of the message received for which a match was found (col. 34, lines 59-65; col. 4, line 56-67 and fig 35-39) .

Though, Pepe et al. may not expressly disclose the operation of the CallCommand to e-mail, Pepe et al. does disclose the operation, directed to voice mail, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching directed to wireless voice to wireless E-mail as it is expressly suggested by Pepe et al. "Wireless technologies make subscribers constantly available, therefore it is important to give them the ability to accept or decline communication attempts at their discretion." Combine with the teaching of wireless e-mail "Sending and receiving e-mail wireless messages involves two types of message flows: sending messages from the PDA 30 to the PCI server 48 and from the PCI server 48 to the PDA 30."

As to claim 2, Pepe et al. taught the subscriber is alerted on finding a characteristic match by sending a page to a paging device carried by the subscriber (col. 5, lines 60-67).

Pepe et al. taught the invention substantially (claim 5) as claimed, an agent (40) adapted for receiving and forwarding e-mail; and a Mail Alert system adapted to compare characteristics of e-mail messages received for the

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subscriber to specific message characteristics provided by the subscriber and pre-stored on the server (col. 4, line 56- col. 5, line 9; col. 7, line 3-15), to alert the subscriber when a characteristic match is found (col. 31, lines 30-65), and to execute instructions received from the subscriber in response to the alert for forwarding of the message received for which a match was found (col. 34, lines 60-65; col. 4, line 56-67 and fig 35-39).

Though, Pepe et al. may not expressly disclose the operation of the CallCommand to e-mail, Pepe et al. does disclose the operation, directed to voice mail, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching directed to wireless voice to wireless E-mail as it is expressly suggested by Pepe et al. "Wireless technologies make subscribers constantly available, therefore it is important to give them the ability to accept or decline communication attempts at their discretion." Combine with the teaching of wireless e-mail "Sending and receiving e-mail wireless messages involves two types of message flows: sending messages from the PDA 30 to the PCI server 48 and from the PCI server 48 to the PDA 30."

As to claim 6, Pepe et al. taught the invention the subscriber is alerted on finding a characteristic match by sending a page to a paging device carried by the subscriber (col. 5, lines 60-67).

As to claim 9, Pepe et al. taught prerecording on a mail server characteristics for messages to be routed, the characteristics provided by a subscriber; receiving messages addressed to the subscriber at the mail server; comparing characteristics of messages received to the prerecorded characteristics provided by the subscriber (col. 4, line 56- col. 5, line 9; col. 7, line 3-15); identifying and storing on the mail server messages received for the subscriber for which a match is found to the prerecorded characteristics (col. 4, line 56- col. 5, line 9; col. 7, line 3-15); alerting the subscriber to the receipt of one or more messages for which a characteristic match is found (col. 4, line 56- col. 5, line 9; col. 7, line 3-15, col. 31, lines 30-65); receiving instructions for forwarding the stored messages from the subscriber in response to the alert Col. 31, lines 32-65 and col. 29, lines 42-64); and; forwarding the stored messages for which a match is found to destinations provided by the subscriber in response to the alert (col. 19, line 30- col. 20, line 25)..

Though, Pepe et al. may not expressly disclose the operation of the CallCommand to e-mail, Pepe et al. does disclose the operation, directed to voice mail, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching directed to wireless voice to wireless E-mail as it is expressly suggested by Pepe et al. "Wireless technologies make subscribers constantly available, therefore it is important to give them the ability to accept or decline communication attempts at their discretion." Combine with the teaching of wireless e-mail "Sending and receiving e-mail wireless messages involves two types of message flows: sending messages from the PDA 30 to the PCI server 48 and from the PCI server 48 to the PDA 30."

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As to claim 10, Pepe et al. taught wherein, in the alerting step, a page is sent to a pager carried by the subscriber to alert the subscriber to the receipt of the one or more messages (col. 5, lines 60-67).

As to claim 13, Pepe et al. taught agent for processing e-mail messages, comprising: a stored list of message characteristics provided by a subscriber; a receiver adapted for receiving e-mail messages and ascertaining message characteristics of the received messages (col. 4, line 56- col. 5, line 9; col. 7, line 3-15); a comparator adapted for comparing characteristics of received messages with stored characteristics, and tagging those messages wherein the characteristics match (col. 4, line 56- col. 5, line 9; col. 7, line 3-15); an alert mechanism for alerting a subscriber to the receipt of messages having characteristics matching the stored characteristics (col. 4, line 56- col. 5, line 9; col. 7, line 3-15);, and a save facility adapted for storing matched messages against future distribution instructions, the future distribution instructions received from the subscriber in response to the alert (col. 19, line 30- col. 20, line 25).

Though, Pepe et al. may not expressly disclose the operation of the CallCommand to e-mail, Pepe et al. does disclose the operation, directed to voice mail, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching directed to wireless voice to wireless E-mail as it is expressly suggested by Pepe et al. "Wireless technologies make subscribers constantly available, therefore it is important to give them the ability to accept or decline communication attempts at their discretion." Combine with the teaching of wireless e-mail "Sending and receiving e-mail wireless messages involves two types of message flows: sending messages from the PDA 30 to the PCI server 48 and from the PCI server 48 to the PDA 30."

As to claim 15, Pepe et al. taught the alert mechanism comprises a page transmitter adapted for transmitting a page signal to a pager carried by the subscriber (col. 5, lines 60-67).

As to claim 16, Pepe et al. taught a forwarding facility for retrieving and forwarding stored messages to destinations provided by the subscriber (

Claims 4, 8, 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as applied to claims 1, 2, and 5-6 as being unpatentable over Pepe et al. (5,742,905).

Pepe et al. did not expressly disclose the use of the automated telephone menu for responding to the alert. Pepe et al. did disclose the use of a telephone menu (col. 11, lines 14-32) and Pepe et al. discloses the use of cross media notification and performing the redirection in real time (col. 20, line 42 - col. 21, line 53). Pepe et al. taught that the system is for operating with mobile equipment such as PDA, pager and cellular phone (col. 5, lines 56-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in view of the cited teachings that an automated telephone menu for responding to the alert would have been an obvious modification, as Pepe et al. expressly disclosed that the media and format for delivery is selectable by the subscriber (col. 6, lines 1-19).

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Claims 3, 7, 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepe et al. (5,742,905) as applied to claims , above, and further in view of Fuller et al. (6,545,589).

Pepe et al. did not expressly disclose the involvement of an operator in the system, Fuller et al. taught the use of operator in a menu system to aid the user (col. 46, lines 12-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the invention to allow for operator assists to aid the user in directing the calls.

Claims 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepe et al. (5,742,905).

As to claim 19, Pepe et al. taught receiving a message for a subscriber (at least col. 29, lines 42- col. 30, line 13); comparing the message to criteria (at least col. 29, line 41- col. 30, line 13, figures 38 and 39); if the message matches the criteria (col. 29, lines 41-46, figures 38 and 39), then sending an alert to the subscriber (col. 29, line 42- col. 30, line 13, figures 38 and 39); receiving a reply from the subscriber in response to the alert, the reply comprising instructions for the message; and processing the message according to the instructions (col. 29, line 47- col. 30, line 13, col. 31, lines 33-65)).

Though, Pepe et al. may not expressly disclose the operation of the CallCommand to e-mail, Pepe et al. does disclose the operation, directed to voice mail, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching directed to wireless voice to wireless E-mail as it is expressly suggested by Pepe et al. "Wireless technologies make subscribers constantly available, therefore it is important to give them the ability to accept or decline communication attempts at their discretion." Combine with the teaching of wireless e-mail "Sending and receiving e-mail wireless messages involves two types of message flows: sending messages from the PDA 30 to the PCI server 48 and from the PCI server 48 to the PDA 30."

As to claim 20, Pepe et al. taught the message is an email message (col. 20, lines 13-53) .

As to claim 21, Pepe et al. taught the alert is a notification message that identifies the received message and criteria matching the message (col. 20, lines 13-53).

As to claim 22, Pepe et al. taught the comparing step comprises filtering the message to determine if parts of the message meet the criteria (col. 4, line 56- col. 5, line 9; col. 7, line 3-15).

As to claim 23, Pepe et al. taught the criteria are selected from the group consisting of message sender information; message subject line information; message body information; and message attachment information.

The claim is in the alternative, see (col. 29, line 42- col. 30, line 13, figures 38 and 39).

As to claim 24, Pepe et al. taught wherein the alert comprises at least a portion of the message (col. 20, lines 42-57).

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As to claim 25, Pepe et al. taught the alert is a message sent to a pager (col. 23, line 63 – col. , line 13).

As to claim 26, Pepe et al. taught wherein the alert is a message sent to a phone (32,26).

As to claim 27, Pepe et al. taught the instructions comprise a command to forward the message to a new destination (col. 29, line 47- col. 30, line 13).

As to claim 28, Pepe et al. taught the new destination is selected from the group consisting of an e-mail address; a fax number; a telephone number; a hand-held computer; a notebook computer; a server computer; and an Internet Service Provider (ISP) (col. 29, line 47-col. 30, line 13, figure 3, 22, 48, 32, 24, 34).

As to claim 29, Pepe et al. taught wherein the reply is received via an entity selected from the group consisting of an operator; a voice-response system; a telephone call; an auto attendant; and a two-way pager.

The claim is in the alternative Pepe et al. taught at least the use of a phone (32,26).

5. Applicant's arguments filed 06/05/2006 fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, applicant should note that the teachings are in the same reference and that Pepe et al. taught Pepe et al. does disclose the operation, directed to voice mail, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching directed to wireless voice to wireless E-mail as it is expressly suggested by Pepe et al. "Wireless technologies make subscribers constantly available, therefore it is important to give them the ability to accept or decline communication attempts at their discretion." Combine with the teaching of wireless e-mail "Sending and receiving e-mail wireless messages involves two types of message flows: sending messages from the PDA 30 to the PCI server 48 and from the PCI server 48 to the PDA 30.

Applicant argues "Clearly, if Pepe suggested the desirability of the combination, Pepe could have included the email functionality in the Callcommand functions, or suggested the desirability of that functionality in its extensive descriptions of its system. Without such teachings in

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Pepe, Applicant respectfully asserts that Pepe teaches away from the modification proposed by the Examiner."

There is no express teaching away.

7. Please note claim 16 has been addressed in the rejection.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larry D. Donaghue whose telephone number is 571-272-3962. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LARRY D. DONAGHUE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

